

Sports

Intramural sports to continue amid unit changes

Jim Jeffcoat
Chief, internal communications

A Company, 3rd Brigade Support Battalion rolled to 7 and 1 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 26th Brigade Support Battalion topped out at 5 and 2 last week in intramural basketball action amid radical changes in conferences as the Marne Division preps to return to Iraq.

Presently, Liberty and Southeastern Conferences, each has seven companies vying for the Intramural Basketball Championship while the Freedom Conference maintains twelve units fighting for the title. Northern and Gulf Coast Conferences are now empty.

The Hunter Army Airfield conference

has 14 teams struggling to maintain a viable spot in the competition for basketball trophies.

Randy Walker, intramural sports director, contends that although games will be played in accordance with units' availability and training cycle, the basketball games will continue to the championship slated late March.

Walker said the Directorate, Morale, Welfare and Recreation is very much aware and supportive of Soldiers prepping for deployment, training and spending time with their families. "We will stay flexible and supportive in that sense, but, we also know the importance of healthy recreational competition and family involvement. Therefore, we encourage our units to continue to support the intramural program in between their training and prepping; and we invite the family members to join their Soldier spouses as we play toward the championship."

Walker noted that DMWR is planning to have an all-star championship run which will include having a noted sports celebrity participate in the championship festivities. More will follow on that plan, according to Walker.

Although, Soldiers are deploying and families are readjusting, intramural sports will continue into the soccer and volleyball seasons. Walker said that the competition maybe limited but the fun and excitement of the competition is bound to be good with participation of the Stewart/Hunter community.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

D Co 3/7th Inf. vs E Co., 1/64th AR5th ASOS	6:30 p.m.	Jan. 29
A Co. 703rd BSB vs HHC, 4/3rd BSTB	7:30 p.m.	Jan. 29
D Co 3/7th Inf. vs HHC, 4/3rd BSTB	6:30 p.m.	Jan. 31
15th ASOS vs A Co. 703rd BSB	7:30 p.m.	Jan. 31
D Co 3/7th Inf. vs A Co. 703rd BSB	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 5
15th ASOS vs HHC, 4/3rd BSTB	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 5
E Co. 1/64th AR vs HHC, 4/3rd BSTB	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 6
E Co. 1/64th AR vs D Co., 3/7th Inf	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 7
D Co 3/7th Inf. vs E Co., 26th BSB	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 12
HHC, 1/9th FA vs A Co. 703rd BSB	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 12
E Co. 1/64th AR vs E Co., 1/64th AR5th ASOS	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 12
HHC, 1/9th FA vs D Co., 3/7th Inf	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 13
A Co. 703rd BSB vs E Co., 1/64th AR	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 13
15th ASOS vs E Co., 26th BSB	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 13
E Co., 26th BSB vs A Co. 703rd BSB	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 21
E Co. 1/64th AR vs E Co., 26th BSB	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 22
HHC, 1/9th FA vs E Co., 1/64th AR5th ASOS	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 22
E Co. 1/64th AR vs HHC, 1/9th FA	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 26
E Co., 26th BSB vs HHC, 1/9th FA	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 28

FREEDOM CONFERENCE

HHC, 26th BSB vs D Co., 703rd BSB	1830	Jan. 29
HHC, 3/7th Inf. vs 135th QM Co.	1930	Jan. 29
HHC, 26th BSB vs 135th QM Co.	2030	Jan. 29
HHC, 3/7th Inf. vs G Co., 703rd BSB	1830	Jan. 31
D Co., 703rd BSB vs HHC, 1/64th AR	1930	Jan. 31
HHC, 26th BSB vs 135th QM Co.	2030	Jan. 31
135th QM Co. vs G Co., 703rd BSB	1830	Feb. 6
D Co., 703rd BSB vs HQ Co., 1/306th Inf.	1930	Feb. 6
HHC, 3/7th Inf. vs B Co., 2/3 BTB	2030	Feb. 6
HHC, 1/64th AR vs HQ Co., 1/306th Inf.	1830	Feb. 12
HHC, 26th BSB vs G Co., 703rd BSB	1930	Feb. 12
135th QM Co. vs B Co., 2/3 BTB	2030	Feb. 12
G Co., 703rd BSB vs B Co., 2/3 BTB	1830	Feb. 21
HHC, 3/7th Inf. vs 2/3rd Sig. Co.	1930	Feb. 21
HHC, 26th BSB vs HQ Co., 1/306th Inf.	2030	Feb. 21
135th QM Co. vs 2/3rd Sig. Co.	1830	Feb. 26
HHC, 26th BSB vs B Co., 2/3 BTB	1930	Feb. 26
D Co., 703rd BSB vs HHC, 3/7th Inf.	2030	Feb. 26

HUNTER AAF

22 January		SCORES:
C co 603rd AVN vs E co 1/3rd AVN	6:30 p.m.	Reschedule
B co 603rd AVN (Won) vs 512th QM co	6:30 p.m.	42 - 26
HHC 3/160th SOAR vs 512th QM co(WON)	7:30 p.m.	31 - 41
AVN BDE(WON) vs CORPS OF ENGN	8:30 p.m.	41 - 37

LIBERTY CONFERENCE

D Co., 3/7th Cav. vs B Co., 4/64th AR	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 13
E Co. 3/7th Inf. vs B Btry., 1/9th FA	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 13
HHC, 2nd BCT vs 1/30th Inf.	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 13
F Co., 26th BSB vs B Btry., 1/9th FA	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 20
D Co., 3/7th Cav. vs 1/30th Inf.	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 20
E Co. 3/7th Inf. vs HHC, 2nd BCT	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 20
B Btry., 19th FA vs HHC, 2nd BCT	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 21
B Co., 4/64th AR vs E Co., 3/7th Inf.	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 21
1/30th Inf. vs E Co., 3/7th Inf.	6:30 p.m.	Feb. 22
B Btry., 19th FA vs D Co., 3/7th Cav.	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 22
B Co., 4/64th AR vs F Co., 26th BSB	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 22
F Co., 26th BSB vs D Co., 3/7th Cav.	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 26
B Btry., 19th FA vs B Co., 4/64th AR	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 26
1/30th Inf. vs F Co., 26th BSB	7:30 p.m.	Feb. 28
HHC, 2nd BCT vs D Co., 3/7th Cav.	8:30 p.m.	Feb. 28
E Co. 3/7th Inf. vs F Co., 26th BSB	6:30 p.m.	Mar. 1
HHC, 2nd BCT vs B Co., 4/64th AR	7:30 p.m.	Mar. 1
1/30th Inf. vs B Btry., 1/9th FA	8:30 p.m.	Mar. 1
B Co., 4/64th AR vs 1/30th Inf.	6:30 p.m.	Mar. 5
F Co., 26th BSB vs HHC, 2nd BCT	7:30 p.m.	Mar. 5
D Co., 3/7th Cav. vs E Co., 3/7th Inf.	8:30 p.m.	Mar. 5
F Co., 26th BSB vs HHC, 2nd BCT	7:30 p.m.	Mar. 5
D Co., 3/7th Cav. vs E Co., 3/7th Inf.	8:30 p.m.	Mar. 5

Basketball Standings

SouthEastern Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
15 ASOS	1	0	1.000
A Co 703d BSB	5	1	0.830
E Co 1/64th AR	1	1	0.500
HHB 1/9 FA	2	2	0.500
D Co 3/7th Inf	2	2	0.500
HHC 4/3 STB	2	3	0.400
E Co 26th BSB	0	0	0.000

Liberty Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
1/30th Inf	2	0	1.000
HHC 2nd BCT	5	0	1.000
B Co 4/64 AR	2	2	0.500
F Co 26th BSB	2	3	0.400
B 1/9FA	1	3	0.250
D Trp 3-7Cav	1	3	0.250
E co 3/7th Inf	0	0	0.000

Freedom Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
A Co 3D BSB	7	1	0.875
DET 2/3d SIG Co	5	2	0.714
135th QM Co	5	2	0.714
G Co 703d BSB	4	2	0.666
HHC 3-7 INF	3	2	0.600
D Co 703D BSB	3	3	0.500
A 1/41 FA	4	4	0.500
B Co 2-3 BTB	2	3	0.400
HQ Co 1-306th IN	2	4	0.333
HHC 1/64 AR	2	7	0.222
HHB 1/64 AR	2	7	0.222
HHC 26th BSB	0	3	0.000

Hunter AFF Conference

	Won	Lost	PCT
DFAC	6	0	1.000
B Co 603d ASB	4	0	1.000
A Co 603d ASB	4	0	1.000
E Co 313 AVN	4	2	0.666
512th QM Co	3	1	0.750
C Co 2/3 AVN	3	2	0.600
E Co 1/3 AVN	2	1	0.666
AVN BDE	2	2	0.500
Corps of Eng	1	3	0.250
514th Eng	1	3	0.250
C Co 3/16th SOAR	1	4	0.200
202d QM Co	0	4	0.000
HHC 160th SOAR	0	4	0.000
C Co 603d ASB	0	5	0.000

Golfers brave wind, weather to ‘scramble’ at Taylor’s Creek

Pat Young
Frontline Staff

Golf on a cold, gusty morning is only for professionals or true enthusiasts. Sixty-eight players representing 17 teams from the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Tuesday threw on their coats, grabbed their clubs and took a swing at winning the Commanding General's Scramble at Turkey Creek Golf Course.

The tournament had a shotgun start with teams playing best ball. Prizes

were given for top teams, longest drive, nearest to pin, and needs improvement.

Betsy Ott, operations assistant for Taylor's Creek Golf Course reported competition was close with only seven points separating first from seventh place.

Ott said winners included Lt. Col. Dan McKay for longest drive. Capt. Joel Martin won closest to pin.

First place was earned by Staff Sgt. Len Carrette, Col. (Ret.) Scott Armbruister and Jay Blocker representing, who scored 58.

Second place was won by Staff Sgt. Shawn Youschak, Spc. Jason Snyder, Staff Sgt. Terry Middleton and Pvt. Robert Ratay whose team scored 61.

The third place team consisted of retired service members, Willie Johnson, Jeff Eastlake, Bob Kell and Gerald Corbin who finished with a score of 61.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Carroll, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rick Campbell, Sgt. Jason Schad and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Doug Hill took fourth place with a sound score of 64.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division commanding General who with fellow team members Lt. Col. Randy Swansiger, Capt. Michael Thomas and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) John Stephens was edged out of fourth place to take fifth with a score of 64.

Spc. Chris Gibson, 1st Sgt. Timothy Hooten and Chief Warrant Officer demonstrated sound skills ascending their aviation team to sixth place with a score of 65.

The seventh place team was represented by Maj. Kent Willey, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joel Patillo, Maj. James McClellan and 1st Sgt. Spencer Davis finished off the top seven with a score of 65.

Taylor's Creek Golf Course is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The cost rages from \$10 for enlisted E1-E5 up to \$18 for civilians.

The club offers an 18-hole course that offers a challenge to even the most experienced golfers, and has a 280-yard driving range, clubhouse, pro-shop, and snack bar.



Chuck Graham, recreation assistant at Taylor's Creek Golf Course assist Sgt. Caesar Gongora, 512th Qm. Co., 260th Quartermaster Battalion, as the team drops by the pro-shop Tuesday for a hot beverage and supplies during the CG's Golf Scramble before heading back out to the competition.

Photos by Pat Young

Spc. Chris Gibson, 4/3 Avn., sinks a 12-foot putt to help his team take sixth place at the CG's Golf Scramble Tuesday.

Kassel, Army blank Air Force, 2-0



Josh Kassel

Courtesy photo

Goarmysports.com

USAFA, Colo. — Josh Kassel made 36 saves to propel Army to a 2-0 victory over Air Force Saturday night in front of 2,381 fans and a nationally-televised audience at Cadet Ice Arena at USAFA, Colo.

The Black Knights (13-9-3, 11-6-3 AHA) jump into second place in the Atlantic hockey standings with the win, their first at USAFA since Jan. 19, 2003, while the Falcons (12-9-5, 9-4-5 AHA) fall to fourth.

After a scoreless first period, Army took advantage of a 5-on-3 opportunity to get on the board midway through the second.

Air Force's Josh Schaffer and Michael Mayra were both given penalties 10:44 into the period offering the Black Knights a golden scoring chance.

Chase Podsiad would be the lucky benefactor as he picked up the trash in front for his second goal of the season.

Robb Ross started the play passing it to Tim Manthey on the point, Manthey then blasted a slap shot setting the stage for Podsiad to knock in the rebound for the power play marker.

Luke Flicek gave the Black, Gold and Gray a 2-0 lead 1:56 into the third period. The junior pocketed his team leading 13th tally of the season with assists from Bryce Hollweg and Owen Meyer. Army went 1-4 on the power play while Air Force was 0-3.

Kassel's career-high 36 save performance marked his sixth 30 save effort of the season and was his third shutout of the 2006-07 campaign.

Falcons's goalie Ben Worker finished the night with eight saves.

The Black Knights return to action next weekend when they host Connecticut in a two-game series at Tate Rink. Both Friday's and Saturday's games are slated for 7 p.m. starts.

Army wrestling finishes second at New York State championships

Goarmysports.com

BUFFALO, N.Y. — For the third straight year, a Simpson brother can boast of being the Outstanding Wrestler at the New York State Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships.

William Simpson won the 133-pound title and was one of three Army champions as the Black Knights finished second at the 38th annual event in the Alumni Center at the University of Buffalo.

Columbia, the 24th ranked team in the country, won the tournament with 156 points, edging Army by 13.

Buffalo was third (121.5) followed by Nassau Community College (76) and Ithaca (65).

The Black Knights got off to a great start in the finals with Fernando Martinez (125), Simpson (133) and Matthew Kyler (141) winning individual titles in the first three weight classes.

Christian Snook (157), Scott Ferguson (184) and Connor Sanders (197) finished second while Brent Smith was third at 174. In all, nine wrestlers placed in the top six with Austin Milster fourth and heavyweight Michael Sprigg sixth.

Williams' older brothers, Patrick and Phillip, won the OW award the past two seasons and the sophomore from Nashville, Tenn., joined them with an impressive tournament.

Simpson claimed the tournament crown with a 4-3 win against Buffalo's Mark Budd, the top seed in the weight and the 14th ranked wrestler in the country according to InterMat.

Simpson moved into the finals with 3-1 decision against No. 2 seed Chris Nottie from Nassau Community College.

"We always talk about wrestling harder and smarter than anyone else in the country," Army head coach Chuck Barbee said. "William always had the hard part down and always wrestled with great intensity. This weekend he put himself into position to win and made things happen."

Martinez capped an impressive tournament with a 10-5 win in the 125-pound finals against Dan Bishop of Buffalo. Martinez routed Alptekin Ozlikic 14-3 in the semifinals.

Kyler had a pin during the first day of competition and concluded his efforts with a pair of major decisions to win the 141-pound title.

He beat Andre Harrison of Nassau 14-4 in the semifinals and ousted Derek Frankavilla of Columbia 12-2 in the title bout.

"It was a great weekend for Army wrestling," Barbee said. "I am really pleased with our effort.

We were just off the mark a bit but turned in some great performances. Our lightweights wrestled extremely well and it was really an exciting weekend for Army wrestling."

Snook, the No. 3 seed at 157, moved into the finals with an 11-5 upset of No. 2 Nate Bachman of RIT and fell to Columbia's Derek Sickles 14-4.

Ferguson had a first-period pin against Nick Calandrino of Ithaca in the semifinals but fell 3-1 in the championships bout against Justin Barent of Columbia.

Sanders earned a 2-1 win in sudden victory in the semifinals against Jamie Luckett of Alfred State and lost to top-seeded Nick Sommerfield of Columbia 4-2 in the title match.

Smith lost via technical fall in the semifinals but battled back for bronze.

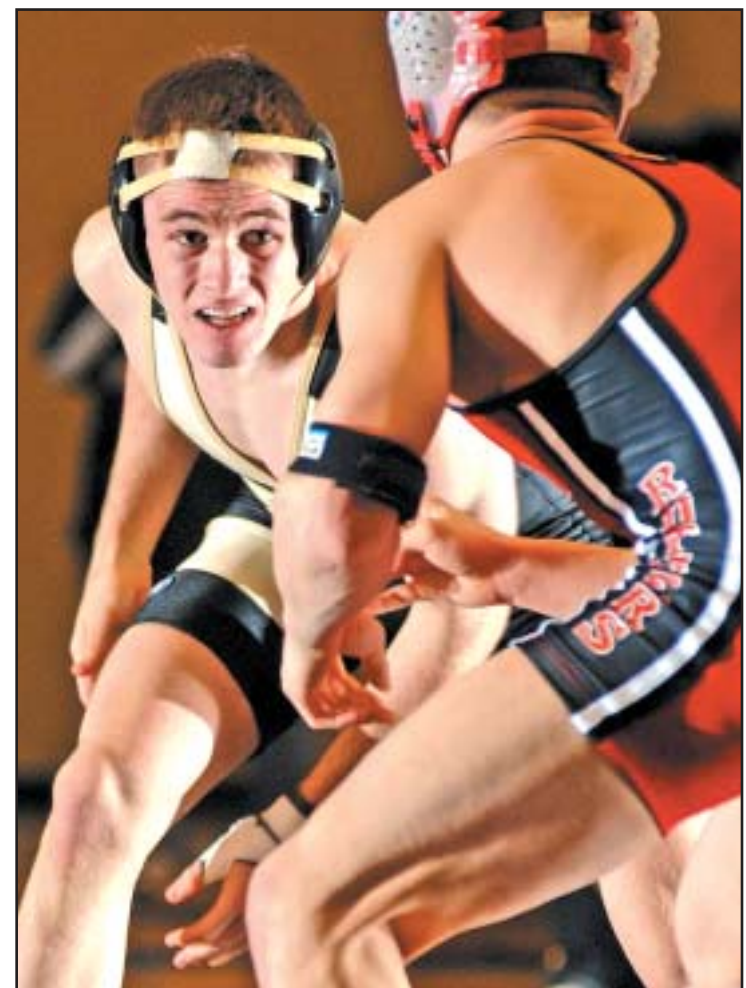
He pinned Erick Van Patten of Brockport and handled Bryan Gomez of Morrisville 6-1 in the third-place bout.

Milster lost his quarterfinal bout Friday and then used a pair of decisions to get into the consolation final where he dropped a 4-3 decision to Eugene Kollansky, the top seed from New York University.

Sprigg lost his semifinal match 16-6 and lost via tiebreaker to Colin Thompson of Nassau.

He placed sixth with a 3-1 loss to Micah Vore of RIT.

In the "B" tournament, David Mason (125), Tyler Howard (133), Frank Baughan (141), Chris Grill (157), Jon Drew



Courtesy photo

William Simpson

(165), Ryan Mergen (174), Richard Starks (184), Ed Mobley (197) and Nathan Thobaben all won titles.

Army will return to dual meet action Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Sacred Heart.



Courtney Wright

Courtesy photo

Army's Wright approach working off bench

Ken McMillan
Goarmysports.com

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Courtney Wright attended a New Mexico high school with a very liberal point of view on today's life issues, and the notion of a military future was the furthest thing from her mind.

So the moment Wright received her first basketball recruiting mailing from Army, her initial reaction was, "Yeah, right," and the letter found its way into the trash can as quickly as one of her jump shots.

Said her mother, Trish: "It's my recollection that she said, 'You think I am going to wear a uniform and shoot a gun? I don't think so.'"

Mom interceded right away, and sold the benefits of the quality West Point education and a chance to play Division I basketball. "It was like pulling teeth to get her to admit that it might be something she needed to do," Trish Wright said. "She wanted to play Division I basketball so badly that she decided to give it a shot."

It turns out Mom knows best, and Courtney is well on her way to a productive collegiate career.

Army carried a 16-2 record into last night's game with American, and coach Dave Magarity credits Wright with having "as big an impact on our success this year as anybody." Wright is averaging just 2.8 points and 5.7 rebounds, but most of her best work has come in the last month. Over the last nine games, Wright is averaging four points and more than nine boards

per game. She had 17 rebounds in a win over Rider and has 12 rebounds in the last two games with Holy Cross and Lehigh.

What's more amazing is Wright basically came from nowhere to be one of Army's top reserves. Relegated to the scout team in practice, she played just 25 minutes all of last season and scored nine points on coach Maggie Dixon's watch. As a freshman, the 5-foot-11 Wright had trouble with positioning on defense and matching up with taller post players.

"I hated it at the time ... I wanted to play," Wright said of her practice duties. "Looking back, I think it was a good way to prepare. It really puts you in your place and makes you think about who you are and how hard you want to work."

When Magarity took over following Dixon's death, he too had doubts about Wright, and he posed one question to the rising sophomore: When the time comes, will you be ready?

"That was a challenge for her," Magarity said.

"I took that to heart," Wright said. "I say that to myself every day and use it as motivation to work."

Wright added muscle in the weight room to better prepare herself for physical battles with taller forwards. She also worked hard in the postseason and preseason individual workout sessions, and came back a different player.

"It's a wonderful transformation," Magarity said. "This kid now has become an incredibly huge piece to this team."

"When her offense catches up with her, she's going to be a really productive player in this league," Magarity added. "She will be a terror in this league as an undersized post."

Wright says she wants to help the team in any way possible. "If it's steals and hustle plays, that's what I will do," she said. "I would love to score more but that is not what our team needs. I will do anything our team needs to get a win."

Coming off the bench is something Wright prefers because she can see what the opposition is doing and whether it is different from the scouting report. "I like to jump in, make an improvement, spark the team and get everyone going," she said.

The adjustment to a military lifestyle wasn't as difficult as she expected. She earned the job of executive officer in her company at the U.S. Military Academy Prep School. She said the challenging training prior to her freshman and sophomore years — commonly known as "Beast" and "Buckner" — brought the cadets together, although she has still not adapted to the nature training. "I am not a very bugsy, outdoorsy kind of person," she admits.

"I think I will like the Army life," Wright said of her military future. "Hopefully I will be a good leader. This is a great learning experience, just having to be in charge of people and understanding the responsibility. I just want to get better at what I am doing well and the things I am not doing well."

Sharpshooters defeat Ohio State along with finishing second at Palmyra Invitational

Goarmysports.com

PALMYRA, Pa. — Senior team captain John Fiddes captured medalist honors in smallbore at the Palmyra Invitational as the No. 3-ranked Army's rifle team (7-2) finished runner-up to champion and No. 1 Alaska Fairbanks along with picking up a 4661-4426 dual win against Ohio State in a match that was held in conjunction with the tournament.

The Black Knights outpointed the Buckeyes in both disciplines, outscoring them by 137 points in smallbore (2311-2174) and by a 98-

point margin in air rifle (2350-2252). Both marks ranked second at the invitational.

Fiddes outscored the field in smallbore with a 583 in besting several of the nation's top teams competing at the Palmyra Invitational, to include No. 1 Alaska Fairbanks and No. 2 Kentucky. It is the second straight meet that Fiddes has fired a 583, which is just one point shy of his season best, while claiming medalist honors for the first time this season in that discipline.

Junior Chris Abalo was the top air rifle shooter in the Ohio State meet with a 592,

which ranked third individually among the nine collegiate teams competing at the Palmyra Invitational. It was the third time this season that the four-time All-American topped the 590 mark.

Joining Abalo on the air rifle team was Wesley Hess (590), David Amiot (587) and Fiddes (581). Abalo (578) and Fiddes combined their talents on the smallbore squad, which also included Brian Kern (577) and Mike Jablonski (573).

"It was great to see solid back-to-back performances," remarked head coach Ron Wigger,

whose squad fired the third best mark in the nation (4681) last week in a dual match versus Alaska Fairbanks. "This is a very prestigious tournament (Palmyra Invitational), and to claim an individual champion (John Fiddes) and runner-up honors in the team competition is a huge achievement."

The Black Knights, opening a three-meet road squad, close out their Great America Rifle Conference slate against North Carolina State Jan. 28. Army is 4-1 in the conference with its lone loss to Kentucky, who wrapped up the regular-season title with the decision.